

Another Conquest of Waialeale by Kauai Party

The difficult journey to the top of Mauna Waialeale was accomplished last week by a party of 12, the largest number ever attempt to reach the "wettest recorded spot in the world."

After exercising their duties and privileges at the polls Tuesday morning the hikers assembled at the home of K. Kualu on the east bank of the Makaweli river just above its junction with the Waimea. Here horses were chosen and packed and the start made at 11 o'clock.

Having forded the Makaweli river which was running high due to heavy rains during the previous night, the steep ascent up the west bank was begun, under the leadership of Charles Blackstead. A stop for lunch was made in Kahae valley after which the packs were shifted, cinches were tightened and the long climb to Kaholuamano—Francis Gay's mountain house—continued. Just after leaving Kahae valley the party received its first baptism of rain, an experience which was continuous for the next 24 hours.

Kaholuamano, which is located at an elevation of 4000 feet was reached at 4 p. m. and preparations made for the first night's stop. An appetizing meal was enjoyed, and plenty of wood secured for the fire, in the light and warmth of which the malihinis listened to the legends and experiences of the earlier days, as they were told by the kamaainas of the party. The thermometer registered 54 degrees during the night.

Shortly after 6 o'clock Wednesday morning the calvacade was Wednesday thru the thick underbrush, mudholes and swampy places to the point where the horses would be left and the hiking begin. Here the horses were left in charge of the wrangler, Victor Manuel, shoes changed, packs shouldered and the start made for the long climb to the Cave of Keaku where the second night was spent.

Some difficulty was encountered in finding the trail, the old blazes having been become disfigured by the elements, but under the experienced guidance of Messrs. Eric Knudsen and Charles Blackstead, the trail was finally located. The first foot of the journey led thru heavy woods and swampy opens. The ever-present rain made the walking soft and slippery and added every minute to the already water-weighted packs. The yellow waters of the Waialeale, the first mauka stream, were forded waist deep, from here the broad ridge narrows and the slope to the headwaters of the Kahana river are seen on both sides of the narrow trail.

By 10:30 a.m. the last of the four streams of the upper Kahana watershed was crossed and after crossing a forest-clad ridge and traversing the bed of the main stream and a tributary the Cave of Keaku was reached by a sharp ascent, and sudden drop, thru the heavy foliage of the tropical forest.

After a hot lunch and a short rest the trail was resumed to the top of Waialeale and the coveted spot where the big rain gauge stands.

Leaving the cave a short ascent is made thru the scrub ohie-lehua and ohie-ha trees, then down again into the stream, the bed of which is followed mauka for a mile to where the trail starts up the hog-

back, over which the last steep ascent to the top is made. Heavy undergrowth and deep mud is again encountered until within a short distance of the top, where a barren, muddy waste, enveloped in a heavy blanket of fog and mist, and a silence that oppresses, turn the weary travelers thoughts to the sunny slopes and cane-clad hills makai.

A few moments reconnoitering discovered the huge rain gauge on the top of one of the mist-enveloped knolls. The contents were measured by Mr. Knudsen and found to show 340 inches of water had fallen since February 8th, the date of the last reading. Each member of the party took a drink of the "sacred water" and after emptying the gauge, replacing and bracing it, the backward trail was taken. The faint outlines of the sacred lake, and other points revered by the ancient Hawaiians could be seen thru the haze and mist.

The Cave of Keaku was reached just before dark. Two of the party had remained in the cave had a roaring fire burning and hot coffee ready when the returning pilgrims reached that welcome haven.

Dry clothing and a hot meal around the cheerful circle of the firelight, relaxed the tired muscles and aching joints. The cave architect had not planned to accommodate as many lodgers at one time. However, by a little doubling up, all were made comfortable and a good night's rest enjoyed (in spite of the fact that several of the party accustomed to sugar plantation habits, had arisen at the unearthly hour of 3:30 a. m. and prepared coffee in accord with their usual custom). The thermometer registered 52 degrees during the night.

After an ample breakfast the homeward journey was begun. The upper Kahana river watershed was crossed and the rivers which had been forded with such difficulty on the trip in, were crossed dry-shod. The horses were reached at Kaholuamano, an uninterrupted journey was made to the starting point on the Makaweli river, which was reached at 4:30 p.m.

Why Waialeale is called "the wettest spot in the world," and whence comes the abundance of water that is found in the rivers of the Garden Isle, and used for irrigating its productive cane fields, can be readily understood by the dauntless dozen who made the ascent to the summit of the world-famous mountain. It is a veritable earthen sponge, drinking in the contents of the moisture-laden clouds in which its head is perpetually enshrouded and thru its surface and underground streams forming the rivers and water courses that have given to Kauai the name of the Garden Island.

Although somewhat sore and stiff after three days strenuous experiences it is a unanimous vote that the trip to the Kuahiwai was a great success and well worth all the dangers and hardships encountered.

Those who composed the party were Eric A. Knudsen, Charles Blackstead, O. R. Olsen, A. Grandhomme, Neil Locke, Rev. R. W. Bayless, Rev. R. G. Hall, Chas. S. Dole, Will C. Crawford, Judge L. A. Dickey, Dr. Charles Barton, of Honolulu, J. Senda, official photographer, and Manuel Victor, horse wrangler.

Hawaiian Relics Given to Museum

The following item, of unusual interest to residents of Kauai, and especially to Kilauea folks, appeared recently in the Berkeley Gazette: Hawaiian antiquities of unusual value have been presented to the University of California by Mrs. Jackson R. Myers in compliance with the wishes of her late husband, Jackson R. Myers, who made the collection during the years from 1900 to 1917, when he was in the islands. It was known as the Jackson R. Myers Collection.

The collection comprises 280 specimens from the islands of Kauai and Maui, and it is soon to be on exhibit in the Pacific room of the University of California Museum of Anthropology.

In speaking of the collection, Prof. E. W. Gifford of the anthropology department, said:

"This Hawaiian collection is a valuable contribution to the university's Pacific island collections, which are not large. It is especially welcome since it comes from a territory of the United States which ought to be well represented in a California museum. The new accession is soon to be placed on display in the Pacific room of the University of California Museum of Anthropology, Parnassus and Second avenues, San Francisco.

"The collection comprises fine series of carved wood bowls, wooden mallets for beating out tapa or bark cloth, adzes, stone lamps, poi pounders, discoidal stones for bowling, and many other objects. Especially notable is a two-legged carved stone pillow, made in the same style as the wooden ones which most Pacific islanders use. Other objects of unusual interest are door stones. These were heavy affairs suspended inside of Hawaiian houses just over the entrance and in such a way that any intruder would touch a trigger which released the stone so that it would fall on his back with dire results."

Mr. Myers, whose death occurred July 3 at Ukiah, following an acute attack of appendicitis, spent about 31 years of his life in the Hawaiian Islands. He was born in Windsor, Sonoma county, California, but came to Berkeley as a boy and received his education in this city. As a young man he went to the islands and worked as a construction engineer for Queen Liliuokalani, building cross roads in the most remote parts of the islands.

Mr. Myers became interested in sugar industry and in 1898 he entered that field of work. For 12 years he was associated with the Kilauea sugar plantation of Kilauea, Kauai. It was while he was in the sugar industry that he made the collection of the antiquities which forms the collection. A great many of the relics were unearthed at Mr. Myers' direction on the plantation on the island of Kauai.

Upon their return from the islands, Mr. and Mrs. Myers made their home in Berkeley, living at 1941 Berryman street, where Mrs. Myers still resides.

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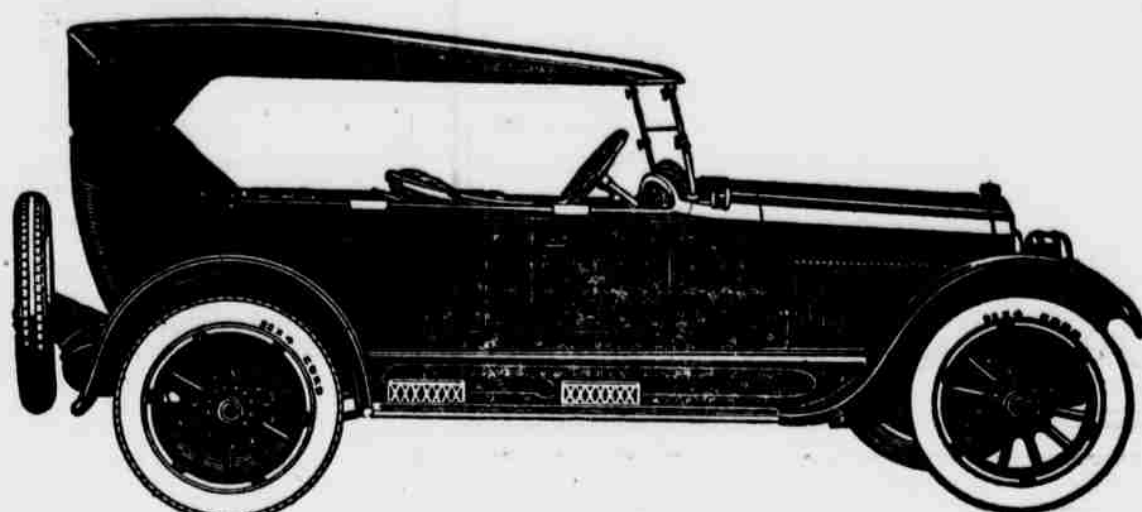
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